

THE
PROTESTATION
OF THE NOBLEMEN,
BARRONS, GENTLE-
MEN, BORROWES, MINIS-
TERS, AND COMMONS,

Subscribers of the Confession of

Faith and Covenant, lately renewed within the
Kingdome of Scotland, made at the Mer-
case Crosse of Edinburgh, the 4. of Iulij im-
mediatly after the reading of the procla-
mation, dated 28. Junij
1638.



Printed in the year of God, 1638.





The Protestation of the Noblemen,
Barons, Gentlemen, Borrowes, Mi-
nisters, and Commons, &c.



WE Noblemen, Barons, Gentle-
men, BURGESSSES, Ministers, and
Commons, That where as We
the Kings Majesties true and
loyall Subjects, Who have
ever esteemed it Our greatest
happinesse, to live under a re-
ligious and righteous King,
and Our greatest glory, to re-
stifie our best affections to our
gratious Sovereigne, Have beene in His Majesties ab-
sence from this His native kingdome Heavily pressed
for a long time past, And especially of late with diverse
innovations, which both in themselves, and in the way
wherein they have beene urged doe manifestly tend to
the prejudice of the Kings honour, and of our religion,
lawes and liberties, And by which wee were brought
to such extremitie, that there was no way left betwixt
the rocke of excommunication, and the high paine of
rebellion on the one part, and the desperate danger of
forsaking the way of true Religion, and the breach of
our Covenant with God on the other, But to represent

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our case, and present our Supplications to the Lords of Secret Counsell, That being equally pondered by Them, They might either bee answered by Themselves, or by their recommendation might ascend to His Majesties owne consideration. And therefore in all humble manner We did to this effect supplicat their L. We were most willing for the modest following of our supplications, to obey their direction in choosling Commissioners for the great number of supplicants, who flocked togidder from all the quarters of the kingdome, Were carefull to order our selves in all Christian and quyet carriage, and against the tediousnesse of many and long delays did waite for a long time with verie great patience, till at last They were pleased to receive our Supplications Complaints and Billes: And conceaving them to containe weightier matters then could by themselves bee determined, They did promise and undertake to represent and recommend the same, according to their more than ordinarie importance unto His Majesties royall consideration, and to report His Majesties answere.

While His Majesties good Subjects of all ranks throughout the whole kingdome had their mindes wakened, and their hearts filled with the expectation of a gracious and satisfactorie answere, worthie of His Majesties pious and equitable disposition, in the Moneth of February last, incontinent a rumour flieth through the countrey, and filleth all eares, That the Lords of His Majesties secret Counsell were commanded to make such a Proclamation concerning the service booke, booke of canons, and the peaceable meetings of His Majesties good Subjects in time coming, As Wee were perswaded to have beene procured by the secret working, and malignant

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grant misinformation of our adversaries, Seeking for their owne private ends, without respect to his Majesties honour, and welfare of this kirk and kingdome, To stop the course of our legall proceedings, and to escape their owne due censure: And therefore intending to make knowne to the Lords of secret Counsell what was noised concerning the Proclamation, How far the whole kingdome had beene by some sinistrous misinformation fruistrat of their hopes, and their constant desire to have some course taken by their Lo. advise, How His Majestie being further informed, might deliver His good Subjects from so great grievances and feares, and establish a sure peace in this countrey for time to come. We found our selves tyed by order of Law to decline those against whom Wee had made our complaint, unlesse We would admit our parties to be our Judges: And in case our declinatour should not bee accepted, Wee behoved to protest that Wee might have immediate recourse to the King Himself, &c. - THEREAFTER in the Moneth of March, finding that by the foresaid proclamation the innovations supplicated against were approven, Our lawfull proceedings condemned, Our most necessarie meetings prohibited, There being no other way left unto Us, Wee were necessitate to renew the nationall Covenant of this Church and Kingdome, Thereby to reconceale us to God, provoked to wrath against Us, by the breach of His Covenant within this Land, to cleare Our Sovereignes minde from all jealousies and suspicions arising from Our adversaries misinformation of our intentions and carriage, And so to make way for His acceptance of our humble supplications, and grant of their lawfull remedies, to guard
this

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this land in defence of religion, authoritie and libertie, against inward divisions, and externall violences, And that our actions might bee answerable to our holy profession, Wee afterward drew up an humble supplication, conteining our grievances, and desires of the ordinarie remedies thereof, to have beene delivered to the King himselfe, In the meane time Wee were directed by those who were intrusted by His Majestie, to attend His declaration heere in *Scotland*, which would free Us of all feares of innovations of religion, and prove satisfactorie. And least for want of true information of our just grievances and desires it should fall out otherwise, We expressed to them with the greatest modestie We could our desires in some few articles, and with great patience have attended His Majesties pleasure thereanent, And all this Moneth bygone being frequently conveyed to heare the same delivered by his Majesties Commissioner, the right Noble and Potent Lord, *James Marquess of Hamilton*, &c. Wee presented a new petition to his Grace, as his Majesties Commissioner, craving most humbly the indiction of a free Assemblie and Parliament, as the only remedies thereof. Like as finding an misinformation, or mistake of our Covenant with God, as if it had beene an unlawfull combination to bee the maine hinderance of obteining our desires, in a new supplication Wee have fully removed that impediment, renewed our desires of those supreme judicatories, to bee indicted with diligence, for settling of the Church and Kingdome: But being answered onely with delayes after these nine Moneths attendance, and with this Proclamation that contained his Majesties gracious declaration of his pious intentions, not to admit of any innovations

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innovations in Religion or Lawes, nor any staine of popish superstition, But on the contrare, to be resolved to maintaine the true Christian Religion professed in this kingdome, which Wee were ever so far from calling in question, as in our supplications, complaints and billes We used the same, as one cause of our desires, one ground of our confidence of a gracious answer, and argument of our adversaries malignant misinformation of so religious a King. And now most humbly with bended knees, and bowed hearts thanke our gracious Sovereigne for the same, Wishing and praying the Lord of heaven truly and fully to informe his Majestie, how far these bookes, judicatories, and all our other evils and grievances are full of idolatrous superstitions, and Popish errors, How destructive of the reformation of religion in this land, and of the lawes and liberties of this Church and Kingdome: And so directly contrare to this his Majesties pious intention and declaration. Yet seeing that no Proclamation could sufficiently remove the present evils, Nor settle our feares, nor secure us from the recurrence of any evill or innovation, which it seemed to discharge or prevent the like in time comming, nor satisfie our humble supplications, craving the present indiction of a free Assemblie and Parliament, As the only remedies of our evils, and meanes to prevent the like. AND seeing this Proclamation doeth not so much as make mention, or acknowledge any of Our Supplications, Complaints and Grievances, or any just cause thereof, Except under the name of great increase of disorders, faults, and misdemanours; But only Our feares of some future innovation of Religion or Lawes, Occasioned only as is pretended by the introduction of

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of the Service booke, booke of Canons, and high Commission, which feares his Majestie hoped to have beene abundantly and sufficiently satisfied by his two former Proclamations of the Nynth of December, and Nineteenth of Februar: And by this his present declaration, Except his Subjects be blindly under pretext of religion led unto disobedience. *Doth* misken, passe over, and so in effect deny all our supplications, billes, articles, and desires, Especially our complaints against the prelates our parties. *And that once for all*, In a faire and perswasive way, even after the resaite of our last supplication, Clearing us from the calummie of unlawfull combination. **DOETH** not disallow, nor discharge any of the Innovations, and evils compleined upon, But only assureth that His Majestie will not presse their practise, But in such a faire and legall way, as shall satisfie his Subjects of his intention, which ioyned with the other clause, allowing and confirming the proclamation the Nineteenth of Februar, Evidenceth the libertie left to any Prelate or Persones to practise the same, And by all other faire wayes, To perswade others thereunto: And his Majesties resolution, to presse their practise in a faire and legall way: And also confirmeth the former declaration, That the Service booke is a ready meane To maintaine the true religion, already professed, and to beate out all superstition, and no wayes to be contrare to the lawes of this Kingdome, But to be compylled and approved for the universall use and edification of all his Maiesties Subiects. *Doeth* not abolish, but promisseth to rectifie the high Commission, with advise of his privie Counsell, Implying the Kings power With consent of the Counsell, To establish this or any judicatorie

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judicatorie within this Kingdome, without consent of the three estates convened in Parliament, contrary to the fundamentall and expresse lawes thereof, and by consequent, with the like reason, to establish lawes and service bookes, without consent of the Assemblie and Parliament, Which is contrare to the maine ground of all our supplications, against the manner of that introduction. *Doeth* only promise to take unto His consideration in an Assemblie and Parliament, which shall be called at his best convenience, While as the evident and urgent necessitie, for settling the combustions, threatening the totall dissolution and desolation of this Church and State, Excuseth our uncessant and importune calling for these present remedies. *Doeth* insinuat the continuance and execution of any pretended lawes, for these innovations of worship, and corruptions of Church governement, and civill places of Church men, Which by our Covenant Wee have obliged our selves to forbear, and the reestablishment of those evils in an Assemblie and Parliament, which he will call in his best convenience, To wit, for that and this other end of satisfying His Subjects judgements, against the Service booke and booke of Canons. *Doeth* condemne all our former proceedings, even our supplicating, compleining, protesting, subscribing of our Covenant together, and our continuall meetings, As great disorders, increase of disorders, deserving justly a powerfull rather then a perswasive way, a running headlong into ruine, a perishing in our faults, a blinde disobedience under pretext of religion, and doth threaten and denounce, *Now once for all*, If we be not heartily satisfied and give testimony of our obedience after this declaration, But continue, as by our former proceedings, to draw on our

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own ruine, that albeit unwillingly he must make use of that power which God hath indued him with, for reclaiming of so disobedient people.

THerefore We, In our own name, and in name of all who will adhere to the Confession of Faith, and reformation of Religion within this land, are forced and compelled out of our bound duetie to God, our King, Native Countrey, our selves and our posteritie, (lest our silence should be prejudiciall to so important a cause, As concerns Gods glorie and worship, our Religion and salvation, The lawes and liberties of this Church and Kingdome, or derogatorie to our former supplications, complaints, protestations, articles, and proceedings, Or unanswerable to the solemne oath of our nationall Covenant with God,) To declare before God, and man, And to protest, *Primo*, That we do, and will constantly adhere according to our vocation and power to the said reformation, In doctrine, use of Sacraments and discipline; And that notwithstanding of any innovations introduced therein either of old, or of late. *Secunda*, We protest that we adhere to the grievances, supplications, and protestations given in at Assemblies and Parliaments, and to our laic supplications, complaints, protestations, and other lawfull proceedings against the same, and particularly against the service booke, and booke of Canons, As maine innovations of Religion and lawes, and full of Popish superstition, and so directly contrare to the Kings declaration, and against the high Commission, as a judicatorie established contrare to the Lawes and liberties of this church and kingdome, and destructive of other lawfull judicatories, which both in respect of the nature of it, and manner of introduction, without consent of the three estats
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of Parliament, cannot bee any wayes rectified, but absolutely discharged. *Tertio*, Wee protest that Wee adhere with Our hearts to our oath and subscription of the Confession of Faith, the solemne Covenant betweene God, this Church and kingdome, and the clauses particularly therein expressed, and generally contained, and to our last articles for the peace of this Church and Kingdome, drawne out of it, and to all the matters therein contained, and manner of remedie therein desired. *Quarto*, we protest, that this Proclamation or act of Counsell, or any other act or proclamation or declaration, or ratification thereof, By subscription or act, or letter, or any other manner of way whatsoever, or any precondemnation of our cause or carriage, before the same be lawfully heard and tryed in the supreme judicatories of this church and kingdome, the only proper judges to nationall causes and proceedings, or any certification or threatening therein denounced, shall no wayes bee prejudiciall to the confession of Faith, lawes and liberties of this Kingdome, nor to our supplications, complaints, protestations, articles, lawfull meetings, proceedings, persutes, mutuall defences, nor to our persons and estates, and shall no wayes bee disgracefull either in realitie or opinion, at home or abroad, to Us or any of Us: But on the contrare, that any act or letter, or subscription of the Counsell, carrying the approbation of the declaration, and condemnation of our proceedings, *indicta causa*, is, and ought to bee repure and esteemed unjust, illegall, and null, as here before God and man Wee offer to cleare, and to verifie both the justice of our cause and carriage, and the injustice of such acts against Us, in the face of the first generall Assemblie of the Church and Parliament of the
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Estates, unto whom, with all solemnities requisite Wee do publicly appeale. *Quinto*, Wee protest, that seeing our former supplications, last articles, and our last desire and petition to His Majesties Commissioner, which petitioned for the present indiction of a free generall Assemblie and Parliament, According to the law and custome of all nations, and of this nation in the like case, To heare the desires, ease the grievances, and settle the feares of the body of the Church and kingdome, are thus delayed, and in effect refused, To wit, *Once for all*, till His Majesties conveniencie for the ends contained in this Proclamation, that We continue by thir presents to supplicat His Majestie againe and againe, for the granting of the same: And whatsoever trouble or inconvenience fall out in this land in the meantime, for want of these ordinarie remedies, and by the practise of any of these innovations and evils, contrare to our supplications, articles, and confession, it be nor imputed unto Us, who most humbly beg these lawfull remedies, But also, that it is, and shall bee lawfull unto Us, to defend and maintaine the religion, lawes, and liberties of this kingdome, the Kings Authoritie in defence thereof, and every one of Us one another in that cause, of maintaining the religion, and the Kings foresaid Authoritie, according to our power, vocation, and covenant, with our best counsell, bodies, lives, meanes, and whole strength, against all persons whatsoever, and against all externall or internall invasions manassed in this proclamation. Like as that in the great exigence of the church, necessitating the use of this ordinarie and lawfull remedies, for settling the commotions thereof, it is, and shall be leasome unto Us to appoint, hold, and use the ordinarie meanes, our lawfull meetings
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and Assemblies of the Church, agreeable to the law of God, and practise of the primitive Church, the Acts of the generall Assemblies and Parliaments, and the example of our Worthie Reformers in the like case. *Sexto*, Wee protest, that our former Supplications, Complaints, Protestations, Confessions, meetings, proceedings, and mutuall defences, of every one another in *this Cause*, As they are, and were in themselves most necessarie, and orderly meanes agreeable to the lawes, and practise of this Church and Kingdome, to be commended as reall duties of faithfull Christians, loyall Subjects, and sensible members of the bodie of the church and Kingdome, and no wise to be styled nor accounted great disorders, misdemeanours, blinde disobedience under pretext of Religion, and running headlong into ruine, &c. So they proceeded only from conscience of our duty to God, our King, native countrey, and our posteritie, and doeth Tend to no other end, But to the preservation of the true reformed Religion, the Confession of faith, lawes, and liberties of this His Majesties most ancient Kingdome, and of his Majesties authoritie, in defence thereof and Satisfaction of our humble desires, contained in our supplications, Complaints, and articles, Unto the which we adhere againe and againe; As we would eschew the curse of the Almighty God, following the breach of his Covenant: And yet we do certainly expect according to the Kings Majestie his accustomed goodnesse, and justice, that his sacred Majestie after a true information of the justice of our cause and carriage, Will presently indict these ordinary remedies of a free Assemblie and Parliament to our just supplications, complaints, and articles, which may be expected, and useth to be graunted from so just
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and gracious a King, towards most loyall and duetifull Subjects, calling for redresse of so pressing grievances, And praying heartily that his Majestie may long and prosperiously reigue over Vs.

WHereupon a Noble Earle, *John Earle of Castles, &c.*
In name of the Noble men, Master *Alexander Gibson*, younger, of *Durie*, in name of the Barons, *James Fletcher*, P rovest of *Dundie*, In name of the Borrowes, Master *John Ker* Minister at *Salis-Prestoun*, In name of the Ministers, and Master *Archbald Johnston*, Reader heereof, In name of all who adheres to the Confession of Faith and Covenant, lately renewed within this Kingdome, Tooke instruments in the hands of three Noters present, at the said mercat crosse of *Edinburgh*, being invironed with great Numbers of the forsaide Noblemen, Barons, Gentlemen, Borrowes, Ministers and Commons, Before many Hundreth witnesses, and craved the extra& thereof: And in taken of their duetifull respect to his Majestie, confidence of the equitie of their cause, and innocencie of their carriage: and hope of his Majesties gracious acceptance, They offred in all humilitie with submisse reverence a copie thereof to the Herald.

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